

Application No. 10/661,941  
Amendment A dated March 31, 2005  
Reply to Office Action mailed November 1, 2004

### **REMARKS / ARGUMENTS**

The present Amendment is in response to the Examiner's Office Action mailed November 1, 2004. Claims 5-12 and 20 are cancelled and claims 1 and 21 are amended. Claims 1-4, 13-19, and 21-24 are now pending in view of the above amendments. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

#### **Allowed Subject Matter**

The Examiner's allowance of claims 13-19 and 22-24 is appreciated. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the careful review and allowance of those claims.

In order to advance the prosecution of this application, claims 5 and 21 that would be allowable if rewritten in independent form have been accordingly rewritten and the claims 5-12 and 20 have been cancelled. The cancellation of claims 5-12 and 20, however, is not to be construed as agreement with the teachings of the cited art as set forth in the Office Action. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the cancelled claims in a separate application.

In particular, the Office Action stated that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 5 and claim 1 is therefore in condition for allowance. Claims 2-4, which depend from claim 1, are also in condition for allowance. In claim 1, Applicants have also added the word "the" before "cage" to overcome the informality originally identified and objected to by the Examiner with respect to claim 5. As a result, claims 1-4 are in condition for allowance.

Similarly, dependent claim 21 has been rewritten so as to incorporate all of the limitations of the base claim 20 and any intervening claims. As acknowledged by the Examiner, claim 21 is now in condition for allowance.

In summary and in view of the above amendments, claims 1-4, 13-19, and 21-24 are now pending in view of the above amendments, and all are patentably distinct from the prior art. Allowance of each of these claims is respectfully requested.

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The Applicant's submit the following comments concerning the Examiner's statements of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter in the Office Action. Applicant agrees with the Examiner that the claimed invention of the claims as presented in this response is patentable over the prior art, but respectfully disagrees with the Examiners statement of reasons for allowance as set forth in Office Action. Applicant submits that it is the claim as a whole, rather than any particular limitation, that makes each of the claims allowable. No single limitation should be construed as the reason for allowance of a claim because it is each of the elements of the claim that makes it allowable. Therefore, Applicant's do not concede that the reasons for allowable subject matter given by the Examiner are the only reasons that make, or would make, the claims allowable and do not make any admission or concession concerning the Examiner's statement in the Office Action.

#### **Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103**

The Office Action rejected claims 1, and 3-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,591,047 (*Yamada*). The Office Action rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yamada* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,533,603 (*Togami*). Claims 6-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yamada*.

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,309,237 (*Longueville*).

Because claim 1-4 are believed to be allowable for reasons discussed above, and because claims 6-12 and 20 have been cancelled, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103 are moot and no discussion is required.


#### **Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe the claims as amended are in allowable form. In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, or which may be overcome by an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

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Dated this 31<sup>st</sup> day of March 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



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